

Clashing Twenties

Trace how cultural change created conflicts over American values.

11.7a "The 1920s was a time of cultural change in the country, characterized by clashes between modern and traditional values."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline a cultural change. Circle two reactions to change. Mark evidence showing that Americans held different values or experiences.

Modern Life, Traditional Responses

- ① Radio and movies spread music, advertising, and fashions in the 1920s. The flapper image symbolized some young women's experiments with dress and independence, but did not represent all women. The Nineteenth Amendment prohibited sex-based voting discrimination in 1920; racial and other barriers persisted. New forms of expression challenged gender expectations without ending inequality.
- ② Prohibition took effect in 1920, banning manufacture, sale, and transportation of intoxicating liquor for beverage purposes. Supporters sought healthier families and communities; opponents resisted through bootlegging and speakeasies. Support did not divide neatly into modern versus traditional camps. The revived Ku Klux Klan used white Protestant supremacy and nativism to attract members beyond the South, targeting Black Americans, Catholics, Jews, and immigrants. Its coercion and violence threatened equal rights, not merely changing tastes.
- ③ The 1921 and 1924 quota laws favored immigration from northern and western Europe over southern and eastern Europe. The 1924 law also extended Asian exclusion, including barring Japanese immigrants. In Tennessee's 1925 Scopes trial, a state law restricting the teaching of human evolution collided with scientific teaching and academic freedom. Religious Americans differed over evolution, so the conflict was not simply religion against science. Together, these disputes revealed disagreements over gender, belonging, morality, and control of education.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What are two examples of modern cultural change in the first paragraph? Explain how one challenged an older expectation.

2 What goal did supporters of Prohibition have, and what two details show that many people resisted it?

3 How did the quota laws change immigration, and why did critics call the laws discriminatory?

4 What conflict over education did the Scopes trial expose, and why is “religion versus science” incomplete?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence claim explaining how the 1920s involved clashes between modern and traditional values. Use two different developments from the passage as evidence, and explain the conflict in each example.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline a cultural change. Circle two reactions to change. Mark evidence showing that Americans held different values or experiences. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What are two examples of modern cultural change in the first paragraph? Explain how one challenged an older expectation.	Examples include radio and movies spreading popular culture, and young women seeking greater independence through fashion, work, and social life. Women's independence challenged older expectations about gender, behavior, and family authority.
2	What goal did supporters of Prohibition have, and what two details show that many people resisted it?	Supporters hoped to protect families and public morals. Speakeasies, bootlegging, and uneven enforcement showed resistance.
3	How did the quota laws change immigration, and why did critics call the laws discriminatory?	National-origin quotas favored northern and western Europe over southern and eastern Europe; the 1924 law extended Asian exclusion. Critics objected to discriminatory selection by origin and race.
4	What conflict over education did the Scopes trial expose, and why is "religion versus science" incomplete?	The trial challenged a state restriction on teaching human evolution against scientific teaching and academic freedom. Religious Americans themselves disagreed about evolution.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The 1920s brought disputes over new forms of expression and inherited expectations. Some young women's fashions and independence challenged older gender roles. The Scopes trial revealed conflict over teaching human evolution, although religious Americans did not all take the same side.

Accept a defensible claim that uses two distinct developments from the passage and accurately explains each as a conflict between modern and traditional values. Students may use women's changing roles, Prohibition, immigration quotas, the Klan, or the Scopes trial.